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PROGRAM Good Morning America

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SUBJECT Klaus Barbie

STEVE BELL: A leading Nazi-hunter says he has new evidence that ex-Nazi Klaus Barbie, now jailed in France, had worked for U.S. intelligence after World War II and had escaped punishment with American assistance.

Greg Dobbs reports.

GREG DOBBS: As he was being brought back here to France, Klaus Barbie complained that the way the Allies had punished many Germans after the war was unjust, which makes the documents just released here all the more pertinent, for they appear to verify that Barbie, rather than being punished by the Allies, actually may have been assisted by them. The belief here is Barbie was used after the war to help the Allies infiltrate what had become East Germany.

The first document, provided by French Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld, who is largely responsible for finding Barbie, appears to be official permission to travel. Its authenticity is unconfirmed, but it is issued in Barbies pseudonym, Klaus Altman, and evidently is signed by American authorities in what was still, back in 1951, occupied Germany. It would have been with this that Barbie got out of Germany and eventually fled to South America.

The second document actually is a set of letters from the French government to the American. They appear to show that for six years France repeatedly asked the U.S. to hand over Barbie, but that repeatedly the requests were rebuffed.

The last document reflects a French government investigation as long after the war as 1963, which concluded

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that even then Barbie, in Bolivia, was working for West German intelligence and the CIA.